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走行車両の認識装置 砂発明の名称

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1. 発明の名称

20代 理

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走行車両の路路装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

走行する車両の前方を過影するカラー過像手 四と、

この顕像手段で撮影された映像信号に基づき、 各色にそれぞれ対応するカラー面像信号を形成す る手段と.

上記手段によって得られたカラー画像信号に 益づき、テールランプおよびヘッドライトにそれ ぞれ相当する色彩の画像信号を抽出する特数抽出 手段と、

この特徴油出手段によって油出された函像個 房によって、テールランプあるいはヘッドライト の存在を認識する手段と、

上記器哉されたテールランプの函像に基づい て、前方車両との間の車制距離並びに相対速度を 算出する計算手段と、

上記器数手段の路銭桔果に基づき、ヘッドラ イトコントロールを実行させる実行手段とを具備

少なくとも上記ヘッドライトの認識によって 前方に対向車の存在する状態が認識されたときに、 車両のヘッドライトをロービームに切換え刻即す るようにしたことを特徴とする走行車両の民族装

3、発明の詳報な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

この発明は、特に夜間において前方を走行する 車両のテールランプの存在、さらに対向車のヘッ ドライトの存在を認識し、前方車両との相対関係 を計算表示すると共に、自車ヘッドライトを自動 的にコントロールできるようにする走行車両の界 鐵装置に関する。

[背景技術]

自動車を夜間運転する場合、ヘッドライトを点

灯して走行しているものであり、特に走行している車両の少ない祖所等を運転する際には、ヘッドライトをハイビームに設定して運転している。

[発明が解決しようとする問題点]

恩談されたテールランフの面像信身に暴づいて前方を走行する車両との車間距離並びに相対・速度を 算出するようにしている。

[ff 用]

この発明は上記のような点に揺みなされたもので、特に夜間に運転する場合において、前方に存在する車両の状態に対応して例えばヘッドライトのピームをハイビームおよびロービームに自動的に制御できるようにするものであり、また制方を建行する車両との相対関係に対応した建行車両の路鉄量を提供しようとするものである。

(問題点を解決するための手段)

すなわち、この発明に係るを作用ののない。また行する事では、この事では、この事では、この事では、この事では、このののののののののののののののののののでは、このものののののでは、このを実行されています。

[発明の実施例]

このテレビジョンカメラ11で撮影された映像のビデオ信号は、デコーダ13に供給されるもので、このデコーダ13にあっては、上記ビデオ信号に基づいてR(赤)、G(椽)、B(青)のカラー面像信号を形成し、このR、G、Bのカラー画像信号は画像信号処理部14に供給する。

この画像信号処理師14にあっては、上記R、G、

Bのカラー画版信号から、テールランプの色彩である赤色、さらにヘッドライトの色彩である白色の特徴を抽出し、例えば2値の画像信号を抽出するものであり、この抽出画像信号に基づいて収影された映像の中にテールランプあるいはヘッドライトの存在を反馈させるようにするものである。そして、この経験結果は実行部15に送られる。

また、この実行的15には、車速センサ16からの車両速度に対応して検出信号、およびヘッドライトのの、ヘッドライトののはロービームの設定が観が出る。そして、この実行的15で上記数様で、車速情報、並びにヘッドライト情報は対する場を知り作業が実行されるようにしているものである。

第3回は上記のような装置の助作状態の洗れを示しているものであり、 車両のイグニッションスイッチが投入されることによってスタートされるようになる。そして、ステップ 101 でヘッドライ

母を2値化して、露課する対象であるヘッドライトおよびテールランプに関連する情報のみを取り出すものであり、ここではヘッドライトおよびテールランプそれぞれの発光色彩に対応したカラー 画像信母を抽出するものである。そして、この特 徴油出のための条件式が設定されるものであり、 この条件式に対応した画像信号を抽出するもので ある。

例えばヘッドライトの点灯時のような白の発光色は、R、G、Bのそれぞれの値が大きく、且つこの各値の相互の間の差が小さい状態となる。そして、この白の発光色を抽出する条件式は、次のようになる。

| R - G | < ε / 1 0

1G-BI<ε/10

1B-RI<&/10

4 ε / 5 < R. G. B ··············(1) 但し、R、G、Bの取り得る値の範囲はΟ~εと する。

また、テールランプの点灯時の赤の発光色は、

トの点灯の有無から夜間であるか否かを判断するもので、夜間であることが判断されたならばステップ102 に進む。そして、このステップ122 で初期設定する。この初期設定ステップ102 においては、観影する西面の走査部分の設定や、テールランプおよびヘッドライトを認識するための特別抽出条件を設定するものである。

このように初期設定されたならば次のステップ
103 に進み、カラーテレビジョンカメラ 11からの
ビデオ信号に基づいて形成されたデコーダ 13から
のカラー画像信号を取り込み、画像信号処理部 14
に入力させる。そして、次のステップ 104 に進む。
このステップ 104 は上記カラー画像信号から画像
信号処理部 14での特徴抽出を実行させるもので、
発光色の白および赤を強調するものである。

この画像信号処理部14は、例えば第4図で示すように構成されるもので、特徴油出部141を構え、この特徴抽出部141に上記デコーダ13からのR、G、Bのカラー画像信号が供給される。この特徴抽出部141で実行する特徴抽出とは、入力画像信

R (赤)の値が他のG (段)、B (青)の2値以上となるものであるため、このテールランプの赤の発光色の抽出条件式は次のようになる。

R > 2 B、およびR > 2 G … … … (2) このようにしてステップ104 で特徴独出された

面像データは、ステップ 105 でメモリ 142 にストアされる。この面像データのストアは、例えば 0.05 秒毎に実行される。そして、このメモリ 142 にストアされた面像データは、ステップ 106 で路歇即 143 に送られて、この特徴的出された面像がテールランプであるか否か判断される。

この判断の基準としては、第5図(A)に示すように自分の車両の走行する走行車線の範囲に対応する面面上の設定範囲51内に、同じあさで2つの赤い色の像52、53があるか否かによって判断された。このステップ107に進んで、ヘッドライトの遠近切換えスイッチの状態から、ヘッドライトの状態がハイビームであるか否か判断する。このステップ107でヘッッドライトがハイビームの状

このステップ 109 では、O. O 5 秒毎に上記メ モリ 142 にストアさせれた顔像データを計算部 14 4 に対して入力させるものであり、次のステップ 110 で前方を走行する車両との車間距離 2、さら に前方を走行する車両との相対速度を計算させる。 ここで、前方を走行する車両との車間距離 2 は、 例えば上記器数されたテールランプ 52 および 53の 間の距離 C 1 に基づき計算するもので、具体的に は次のような計算により上記距離 C 1 を求める。

そして、この距離 r 2 によって計算した車間距離を Z 1 とすると、前方車両との相対速度 V は次の式で求められる。

 $V = (Z - Z1) / 0.05 \cdots (8)$

このような計算によってステップ 110 で前方車両との申閲距離 Z および相対速度 V が求められるもので、この計算結果はステップ 111 で表示されるようになる。

このステップ 111 における表示の手段としては、例えば車両のメータパネルに数字によって表示するようにすればよい。

上記ステップ 106 でテールランプ が 図 酸されなかった 場合はステップ 112 に進む。このステップ 112 ではヘッドライトの 認識を行なうもので、 第6 図に示すように 画面上の対向 車線に 相当する 投定を 団 61に、 同じ 高さで 2 つの白い 発光色 62、 63 が 存在する か否かによって 判断するもので、この 2 つの白い 発光色 62、 63の存在によって対向軍のヘッドライトを認識する。

このステップ112 でヘッドライトが招頭された

すなわち、テレビションカメラ-11の焦点距離を f、このカメラ 11のレンズから車項までの距離を Z、カメラ 11の倍率をβとすると、

上記(3) および(4) 式から、車間距離 Z は 次式で求められる。

このような車間距離の演算は上記画像データのストアされる 0.05秒毎に実行されるものであり、この 0.05秒毎に得られる車間距離から自己の車両と前方を走行する車両との相対速度が計算される。すなわち、第5図 (A)で示すようなテールランプの画像が得られてから 0.05秒後の同じテールランプの画像は第5図の(B)に示すようになるものであり、テールランプ 52と 53との この 2 の 2 の 2 に変化するようになる。

ならばステップ 113 に進み、自己の年两のヘッド ライトの状態をステップ 107 と同様に判断し、ハイビームであった協合にはステップ 114 でロービームに切換える。

上記ステップ 112 でヘッドライトが認識される かった場合には、前方を地断されるもので、ごとが判断されるもので、プ 115 に進む。このスットラの 2 はステップ 115 に進む。このスットラでは、メモリの記憶内がある。 3 まんで、ステッとは、ス

すなわち、上記の装置にあっては夜間走行中に おいて、前方に車両が存在する場合. あるいは対

時間昭62-131837 (5)

尚、前方を規形するテレビジョンカメラの取り付け位置は、車両の前方を撮影することのできる位置であってもよい。また、カメラの取り付け角度を変化できるように構成し、例えばステアリングの操作角度に対応して自動的に角度制御できるようにしてもよい。このようにすれば、カメラは常に車両の操舵方向に向くよう

その安全運転のための店用範囲も効果的に拡大されるものである。

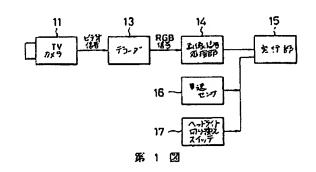
4. 図面の簡単な説明

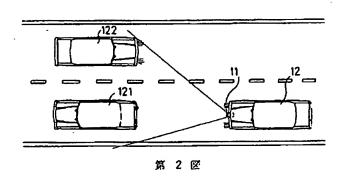
第1回はこの発明の一変施例に係る認識を避ります。 第2回は上記 実施例に おけるテレビションカメラの設定 状態を説明する 図、 第3回は上記 実施例の 動作状態を説明する 回・チャート、第4回は上記 実施例の 画像信号 処理部 する 図はテールランプを認識する 図像状態を説明する図、第6回は同じく かる。

11…カラーテレビションカメラ、12… 車両、 13…デコーダ、14… 面像信号処理部、15… 実行部、 16… 車速センサ、17… ヘッドライト切換えスイッチ。

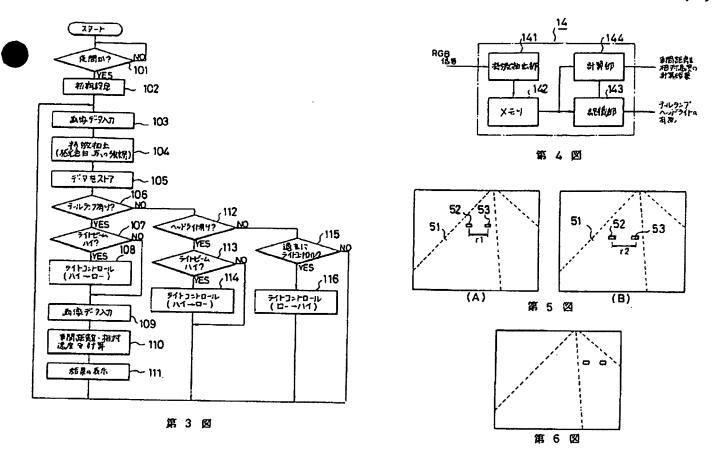
出願人代理人 弁理士 鈴 江 武 彦

[発明の効果]





特開昭62-131837 (6)



PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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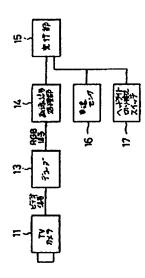
(54) RECOGNITION DEVICE FOR DRIVEN VEHICLE

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve safety of driving at night by recognizing the presence of forward going or oncoming vehicles at night and, based on the result of the recognition, automatically controlling headlights.

CONSTITUTION: Toward the front part of a vehicle is attached a color television camera 11 for taking pictures in front of the vehicle 12. Video signals of images taken with the camera 11 are supplied to a decoder 13 which forms color picture signals to be supplied to a picture signal processing part 14. The signal processing part 14 recognizes the presence of taillights or headlights of other vehicles in front of the vehicle in question and supplies the recognized results to a performing part 15 to control the headlights automatically.

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(12) PUBLICATION OF UNEXAMINED PATENT APPLICATION

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(54) Title of the Invention: RECOGNITION DEVICE FOR TRAVELING VEHICLE

SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. Title of the Invention: Recognition Device for Driven Vehicle
- 2. Scope of the Patent's Claim

Recognition device for traveling vehicle, characterized by the fact that it is equipped with a color picture taking means, which takes pictures in front of a traveling vehicle;

a color image formation means, which forms a color image corresponding to respective colors, based on the image signal filmed with this picture taking means;

a characteristics extracting means, which extracts the signal image with respective colors corresponding to tail lamps or headlights, based on the color image signal obtained with said means;

a recognition means, which recognizes the presence of tail lamps or headlights from the image signal extracted with the characteristics extraction means;

a calculation means, which calculates the relative velocity and the distance of the vehicle from a preceding vehicle based on the detected tail lamp image;

and an execution means, which executes headlight control based on the recognition result of said recognition means;

wherein when a status has been recognized in which a preceding or an oncoming vehicle is present at a minimum with the recognition of said headlights, control is exercised in order to switch the headlights of the vehicle to low beams.

3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention (Sphere of Industrial Use)

This invention relates to a recognition device for a traveling vehicle, in particular to a recognition device which makes it possible to recognize the presence of the tail lamps of a vehicle traveling in front of a car during night time, as well as to recognize the presence of the headlights of an oncoming vehicle, so that the headlights of the car itself can be controlled automatically.

(Background Technology)

The headlights lamps are turned on when a vehicle is operated during night time, in particular when only few cars are being operated, and the operation of the headlights is usually set to high beams under these circumstances.

[page 2]

However, if an oncoming vehicle is present during the operating state when the high beams are operated, or if a vehicle is present in the vicinity in front of the vehicle, the driver must switch the status of the headlights to low beams not to obstruct the visual field of the driver of an oncoming car or of a car traveling in front of the vehicle.

Moreover, since this kind of the control of the beams of the headlight may be annoying for the driver, in particular when the vehicle is operated on a road that has many curves, this can cause complicated driving operations. In addition, if a vehicle traveling in front of the car is present, the distance between the car in question and the vehicle in front of it, as well as the relative speed of the vehicle traveling in front must be accurately recognized by the driver in question. To ensure safer operations, it is therefore necessary to determine accurately the relative relationship to a vehicle traveling in front.

(Problems to Be Solved By This Invention)

In view of the problems described above, the present invention provides a device for recognition of traveling vehicles, which enables automatic control over the high beams and low beams of the headlights, for example in response to the status of vehicles present in front of a car, in particular when the car is traveling during night time, and which also makes it possible to issue a warning for the driver in response to the relative relationship between the car in question and a car traveling in front of it.

(Means to Solve Problems)

Specifically, according to the device for recognition of a traveling vehicle relating to this invention, a picture taking device is set up, such a for example a color TV camera which films the situation in front of a traveling vehicle, so that based on the camera image signal filmed with this picture taking device, color image signal is formed by extracting the characteristics of the headlights and tail lamps, which are extracted as color characteristics, so that because headlights in front of the car and tail lamps are recognized, beam control can be realized automatically based on the result of this recognition. Furthermore, the relative speed and the relative distance of a preceding car can be calculated based on the image signal of the recognized tail lamps.

(Operation)

According to the device for recognition of a traveling car which has the construction described above, because the headlights and the tail lamps of a vehicle traveling in front can be recognized based on its color characteristics, the operator can thus be notified about the presence of oncoming vehicle which is recognized in this manner, and about the presence of a vehicle traveling in front of the car. In addition, since the conditions requiring to switch the headlights from high beams to low beams can be detected based on the result of this recognition, this makes to possible to realize the headlight beam control automatically when the recognition conditions have been set. Also, since the relative speed and the distance of the vehicle from a car in front of it can be calculated based on the recognition of tail lamps, a warning can be generated for the driver in a situation when there is for instance the danger of a rear-end collision and in similar situations.

(Embodiment)

The following is an explanation of one embodiment of this invention based on the enclosed figures. Figure 1 shows the construction of this embodiment, which is equipped with a TV camera 11. This TV camera 11 is set up so that it is installed in the front part of the vehicle 12, such as a passenger car as shown for example in Figure 2, in order to film the situation in front of the car 12, in particular a car 121 traveling in front of it, but the setup also makes it possible to film oncoming cars, such as the car 122. In this case, it is clear that the headlights of the car 122 will be filmed with a white color and the tail lamps of the car 121 will be filmed with a red color, in particular at night.

The video signal, which is filmed with this TV camera 11, is supplied to a decoder 13, this decoder 13 forms color image based on said video signal as R (red), G (green) and (B) blue color image, and this R, G, B color image is supplied to an image signal processing part 14.

[page 3]

This image processing part 14 extracts the characteristics of the tail lamps as red light characteristics, and the characteristics of headlights are extracted as white color characteristics based on said R, G, B color image, so that when for example a binary image signal is extracted, based on this extracted video signal, the presence of headlights or of tail lamps can be recognized with this design in the film image. After that, the result of this recognition is furnished to an execution part 15.

To this execution part 15 is also supplied a detection signal corresponding to the vehicle velocity obtained from a vehicle velocity sensor 16, and a signal indicating the set status of high beams or low beams of the headlights, obtained from a switch 17, which switches on the headlights. Further, based on said recognition information, vehicle velocity information, and headlight information, the execution part 15 controls the beams of the headlights and executes a warning notice operation issued for the driver.

Figure 3 is a flowchart indicating the processing flow during the operating status of such a device, which starts when the car ignition key is inserted to start the car. After that, in step 101, when it is determined whether illumination of the headlight lamps is present or is not present at night time, the operation proceeds with step 102 if it is determined that this is night time. After that, the initializing setting is realized in step 122 [sic]. During the initializing setting in step 102, the setting of the scanned part of the filmed image is realized, and also the conditions for extraction of characteristics are set in order to recognize tail lamps or headlights.

Once the initial setting has been realized in this manner, the operation proceeds with the next step, step 103. In this step, the color image signal obtained from the decoder 13 based on the video signal obtained from the color TV camera 11 is incorporated and input to the image processing part 14. Next, the operation proceeds with

step 104. Because the extraction of characteristics are realized with the image processing part 14 from said color image signal in this step 104, the white color and the red color is intensified in the emitted colors.

Because this image signal processing part 14, which can be constructed for example as shown in Figure 4, is equipped with a characteristics extraction part 141, color image signal corresponding to R, G, B is supplied from said decoder 13, and when its characteristics have been extracted by this characteristics extraction part 141, the input image signal is converted to a binary system, and because only information related to the headlights and tail lamps as the recognized target is fetched, the color signal corresponding to respective emission colors of the headlights and tail lamps is extracted. Also, because the condition type for extraction of these characteristics is preset, the image signal corresponding to this condition type can be extracted.

If for example the white mission light color, such as the light which is emitted from headlights, creates a large value of respective components R, G, B, there is a small difference between the mutual values creating this state. Also, the condition formula for this white emission light can be created as follows:

while the range for incorporation of R, G, B is set as $0 \sim \epsilon$.

In addition, because according to the red emission color emitted when the tail lamps are lit up, the value of R (red) will be more than twice as much as the value of G (green), or B (blue), the extraction condition formula for the emission of the red color from tail lamps can be created as follows:

$$R > 2B$$
, and $R > 2G$ (2)

The image data having the characteristics extracted in step 104 is then stored in memory 142 in step 105. The storage of this image data can be realized for example in 0.05 seconds. Further, the image data stored in this memory 142 is furnished in step 106 to a recognition part 143 and a determination is made whether the image having these extracted characteristics is or is not a tail lamp image.

Using this determination as a standard, it is determined whether 2 images 52, 53, having red color at the same height, are or are not present inside the range set in the image, so as to correspond to the range of a car line in which the car itself is traveling as

shown in Figure 5 (A). If tail lamps are recognized during this step 106, the operation proceeds with step 107, in which a determination is made whether the headlight status is switched to the high beam status with the switch setting for the near or the far status. [page 4]

If this is the high beam status of the headlights in step 107, the operation proceeds with step 108, in which the light control is operated to switch on the low beam headlights, and the operation then proceeds with step 109. In this case, the fact that the headlights were switched from high beams to low beams is stored in memory. This fact will be retained in the memory when the high beams status is created again, or it will be erased from memory if the ignition switch is released. In addition, if it has been determined in step 107 that the headlight status corresponds to low beams, the operation will proceed as is with step 109.

In step 109, the image data, which is stored each 0.05 seconds in said memory 142, is input to a calculation part 144. Next, during step 110, the distance Z from the vehicle to the vehicle traveling in front of it is calculated, and the relative velocity of the car traveling in the forward direction is also calculated.

In this case, the distance Z from the vehicle to the vehicle traveling in front of it can be calculated for example based on the distance r1 between the tail lamps 52 and 53, recognized as described above. Specifically, the distance r1 is calculated as described below.

Specifically, f, which is the focal distance of the TV camera 11, distance Z from the lens of this camera 11 to the vehicle, and the magnification of the camera 11, set as β , can be established according to the following formula:

$$\beta = f/Z \qquad \dots \qquad \dots$$

Also, the distance between said tail lamps, set to R, and said magnification β , which is set to "1", can be established according to the following formula:

$$\beta = r / R \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad (4)$$

As one can see from the formulas (3) and (4) above, the distance Z between the vehicles can be determined according to the following formula:

Therefore, since the calculation of the distance between the vehicles is realized each 0.05 seconds and said image data is stored, the relative velocity of the vehicle traveling in front of the car itself can be calculated from the distance between the

vehicles obtained in this manner each 0.05 seconds. In other words, since the image of the tail lamp shown in Figure 5 (A) is obtained as the same tail lamp image 0.05 seconds later as shown in Figure 5 (B), the distance between the tail lamp 52 and 53 will be changed from r1 to r2.

Also, when the distance Z1 between the vehicles is calculated with this distance r2, the relative velocity V of the car in front of the vehicle can be calculated according to the following formula:

$$V = (Z - Z1) / 0.05 \dots$$
 (6)

Since the distance Z from the vehicle in front of the car and the relative velocity V have been determined with the calculation in step 110, the result of this calculation can be displayed in step 11.

The display means, which can be used in this step 111, can be for example a meter panel of the vehicle on which numbers are displayed.

If tail lamps have been recognized in said step 106, the operation proceeds with step 112. Because the headlight recognition operation is carried out in step 112, the headlights of an oncoming car are recognized when it has been determined whether 2 white color emissions 62, 63 are or are not present at the same height in a specified range corresponding to the car lane of an oncoming vehicle shown in Figure 6, if 2 white color emissions 62, 63 are present.

If the headlights have been recognized in this step 112, the operation proceeds with step 113, the status of the headlights of the car itself is then recognized in the same manner in step 107, and if the headlights are switched to high beams, they will be switched to low beams in step 114.

If no headlights were recognized in said step 112, it will be determined that no preceding vehicle and no oncoming vehicle is present, and the operation will proceed with step 115. In this step 115, the status set for the headlights in the past is determined from the content stored in the memory, and if it is determined that high beams were stored in the memory, the operation proceeds with step 116 and the headlights are switched to high beams. For example, if during the status when the vehicle was traveling with high beams the status was switched to low beams in step 108 or 114, as long as a previous high beams status is stored in memory, after a car in front of the vehicle has been passed, or after an oncoming vehicle has been passed, the headlights will be switched to high beams in step 116.

[page 5]

In other words, when said device is used during travel at night, if a car is present in front of said vehicle, or if an oncoming car is present in front of this vehicle, for example during the high beams status of the headlights, the headlights will be automatically switched to high beams, so that stable road operations will be executed automatically. Also, it is particularly useful to know the precise status including the distance between the vehicles and the relative velocity, especially when the vehicle is traveling at night, because this function can be utilized as an effective means for prevention of rear-end collisions. Because in this case, the distance between the vehicles and the relative velocity is calculated, a rear-end collision can be anticipated based on this data, which makes it possible to generate a warning such as a warning sound for the driver, since such an occurrence is anticipated. In other words, this can be also used as a means preventing the driver from falling asleep while driving.

Also, the TV camera taking pictures of the situation in front of the car is installed can be installed in any position as long as this position makes it possible to film the situation in front of the car. Further, the construction also makes it possible to modify the angle in which the camera is installed, for example so that the angle can be automatically controlled, for example according to the angle of steering operations. With this type of installation, monitoring of preceding cars can be effectively carried out when the camera is facing in the direction in front of the car. Further, because a safe distance between the vehicles can be set based on the absolute velocity of the car itself, if the distance has dropped to a status below this distance, as long as the driver is warned by a warning sound or a buzzer, this makes it possible to utilize the device effectively as a warning system ensuring safe operations. It is further also possible to employ delayed timer processing when control is exercised in the embodiment described above during switching from low beams to high beams.

(Effect of the Invention)

As was explained above, because the recognition device for recognition of a traveling car according to this invention enables a secure recognition of the presence of a vehicle traveling in front of the car, in particular at night, and of an oncoming vehicle, headlights can be controlled automatically based on the results of this recognition. Accordingly, because an operation that is essential for overall safety can be realized automatically while traveling at night, an important effect is thus realized affecting the safety of operations at night. Furthermore, because a warning operation can be also realized with various types of operations related to safety, the effect thus greatly expands the overall safety of driving operations.

Brief Explanation of Figures

Figure 1 shown a block diagram explaining a recognition device according to one embodiment of this invention, Figure 2 is a diagram explaining the status in which a TV camera is set up in said embodiment, Figure 3 is a flowchart explaining the operating status in said embodiment, Figure 4 is a diagram showing one construction example of

said embodiment, Figure 5 is a diagram explaining the image status when tail lamps are recognized, and Figure 6 is a diagram explaining the image status when headlights are recognized in the same manner.

11 ... color TV camera, 12 ... vehicle, 13 ... decoder, 14 ... image signal processing part, 15 ... execution part, 16 ... vehicle velocity sensor, 17 ... headlight switching switch.

Representative: Takehiko SUZUKI, patent attorney.

Figure 1

- 11 TV camera video signal
- 13 decoderRGB signal
- image signal processing part
- 15 execution part
- 16 vehicle velocity sensor
- 17 headlight switching switch

Figure 2

[page 6]

Figure 3

START 101 Night time? 102 initial setting

- 102 initial setting
- image data input
- characteristics are extracted emission color [illegible]
- 105 data is stored
- 106 Are these tail lamps?
- 107 Light control are these high beams?
- 108 Light control are these low beams?
- 109 image data is input
- the relative distance between the vehicles [illegible] is calculated
- 111 the results are displayed

- Are these headlights?
 Are these headlights with high beams?
 light control (high → low)
- Low beams status in the past? light control (low \rightarrow high)

Figure 4

RGB signal
characteristics extraction part
memory
recognition part → presence or absence of tail lamps or headlights
calculation part → the relative distance is calculated

Figure 5 (A) and (B)

Figure 6

VERIFICATION OF A TRANSLATION

I, the below named translator, hereby declare that: My name and post office address are as stated below:

Stephen V. Vitek, 1204 False Creek Way, Chesapeake, VA 23322

That I am knowledgeable in the English language and in the language in which the below identified international document was written, and that I believe the English translation of the attached document:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application No. 62-131837 "RECOGNTION DEVICE FOR DRIVEN VEHICLE", patent applicant Nippon Denso Co., Ltd.,

is a true and complete translation of the above identified document.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the document.

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